

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/541,838

Examiner

Gregory J. Strimbu

Applicant(s)

SMITH, PETER J.

Art Unit

3634

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of 12/3/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11 and 13-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/9/09
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David J. Ford on January 29, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the abstract:

line 1, deleted "which" and deleted "opposing"

line 2, changed "that interact via" to --each including--

In the specification:

paragraph 33,

line 10, changed "132A" to --132B--

In the claims:

claim 11,

line 3, inserted --thereof-- following the last occurrence of "end"

line 17, changed "to" to --directly to said first rail near--

line 19, inserted --then-- following the last occurrence of "and"

line 20, changed "to" to --directly to said second rail near--

line 22, inserted --then-- following the last occurrence of "and"

line 23, inserted --is-- following "cable"

line 24, inserted --then-- following the first occurrence of "and"

line 25, inserted --then-- following the first occurrence of "and"

line 29, changed "end" to --ends--

line 32, changed "end" to --ends--

claim 13,

line 2, changed "includes a first" to --comprises a first primary--

line 3, inserted --primary-- following the first occurrence of "second"

line 4, changed "cable ends" to --primary cables--

claim 16,

line 5, changed "near" to --to--

line 8, changed "near" to --directly to the rail near-- and inserted --then-- following "and"

line 10, changed "near" to --directly to the rail near-- and inserted --then-- following the first occurrence of "and"

line 14, changed "the pulley" to --said at least one of the pulleys--

line 15, changed "the drive pulley" to --said at least one of the pulleys--

line 16, changed "operative movement of the drive" to --rotation of said at least one of the pulleys--

line 17, deleted "pulley"

Drawings

The drawing correction filed December 3, 2009 is approved, however, the following changes are required. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

In figure 6 as amended, change "1704" to --170A--

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record, absent applicant's own disclosure, fails to teach the entire combination of elements set forth in the claimed invention. Specifically, the prior art of record fails to teach a lift pulley mounted to a lift plate wherein a cable has a first end directly anchored to an end of a guide rail, is then wound about the lift pulley and then wound about a guide pulley mounted to the guide rail. See claim 11, lines 2-19 and claim 16, lines 2-9. Although references such as Price disclose a lift pulley mounted to a lift plate, a guide pulley, and a cable having at least one fixed end, they fail to disclose the fixed end of the cable being fixed to a guide rail.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Strimbu whose telephone number is 571-272-6836. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell can be reached on 571-272-7069. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gregory J. Strimbu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3634